



TO PROMOTE POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY
THROUGH INFORMED AND ACTIVE
PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN
GOVERNMENT AND TO ACT ON
SELECTED GOVERNMENT ISSUES

THE VOTER
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF TALLAHASSEE
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Tallahassee

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August

4-11 Saturday to Saturday
Early Voting in Leon County

7 Tuesday
Local Government Meeting
at
Ruth O'Donnell's
3509 Trillium Ct

11 Saturday
9:00-11:30 am
Meet & Greet
Downtown Market
(City races)

14 Tuesday
Leon County School
Board, Howell Center
955 W. Pensacola St.

HOT TOPIC LUNCHEON
Judging the Judges for Yourself
with Annette Boyd Pitts

Voters are invited to learn how judges can be selected and elected with our featured speaker, Annette Boyd Pitts. Together we'll explore how to analyze the qualifications and roles of an appellate judge and evaluate the conditions under which judges should be retained or removed from the bench. We'll also review the "merit retention" process as well as learn about a new public education program named "Benchmarks."



Founding Executive Director of the Florida Law Related Education Association—a nonpartisan civic education organization, Ms. Pitts is a respected author, program and curriculum developer, trainer, and education policy consultant in the fields of civics and law-related education. She has worked in over 25 countries to advance democracy through education, including in Florida where she played an integral role in returning civics education to our public schools.

A dynamic speaker and passionate teacher, Ms. Pitts welcomes your discussion and questions on a wide range of law related topics. Please join us!

Date & Time August 22, 2012 Wednesday
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location Capital City Country Club
1601 Golf Terrace Dr., Tallahassee 32301

Lunch \$20 Buffet of grilled fish and vegetable lasagna, full salad bar, chef's vegetable & starch, fresh baked rolls with butter

FOR RESERVATIONS please call 309-3005
-or- email LWVTallahassee@gmail.com

please RSVP by Saturday morning, August 18.

(If you would like a vegetarian entree or to be served at your seat, please request this when you make your reservation.)

14 Tuesday
7:00 am-7:00 pm
Primary Election
& Adopt a Precinct
Fundraiser

Because the League must pay for reservations cancelled after Saturday May 12, those who cancel late should reimburse the League for their reservation's cost.

15 Wednesday
Vote411Leon.org goes live
with General Election
candidates

21 Tuesday
6:00 pm
LWVT Board meeting
LWVF Office
540 Beverly Court

22 Wednesday
11:30 a.m.
Hot Topics Luncheon
Capital City Country Club

22 Wednesday
4:00 p.m.
Tallahassee City
Commission Meeting
City Hall, 2nd floor

28 Tuesday
3:00 pm
Leon County Commission
Meeting
County Courthouse, 5th floor

28 Tuesday
6:00 pm
Leon County School Board,
Howell Center
3955 W. Pensacola St.

29 Wednesday
4:00 pm
Tallahassee City
Commission Meeting City
Hall, 2nd floor

President's Message

It would be hard for me to imagine a more rewarding, work-packed summer.

We've accomplished a lot together: Six voter service projects have been taken on this summer. A greater number of League volunteers than I can recount here have participated or taken leadership roles in new projects like the Meet and Greets at the Downtown Market or the Local Government Candidate Forum. Enduring voter service projects like Bandwagon, the Vote411Leon.org online voter guide, and Big Bend Environmental Forum have been enriched by new talent behind the scenes as well as those who are like anchors-embodiment of the knowledge and experience needed to keep us off the rocks in the partisan storms that swirl during election season.

If you've been away this summer, then I welcome you home! You're going to enjoy meeting the wonderful members, new and long-time, who have been volunteering recently. Fresh faces are evident everywhere. At every event, it seems I meet a new member and am greatly impressed by their intelligence and passion. At every turn, it seems a long-time member is taking charge and contributing better ideas and a willingness to try something new. I have had the opportunity to show a few members how one might reach out to register voters at the Downtown Market, or how to format candidate pages for Vote411Leon.org. But what has made this all such a pleasure is that I have been learning so much from these volunteers that, in theory, I was training, but in reality, taught me so much.

So, it is to you who have enriched the life of the Tallahassee League this summer, I say THANK YOU!

-Rebecca Sager



Welcome New Members! (May, June, July)

Kay'd Selden
Terry Kant-Rauch
Lisa Hall
Lauren Brognano
Agnes Furey
Penny Crandall
Michael and Linda Dodson

Linda Beckman
Rose Garcia
Marty Monroe
Victoria (Tori) Bell
Genevieve (Genny) Rosenberg
Carol Hokanson
Stan Peacock

DOWNTOWN MARKET VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Bring a friend to **Meet the Candidates** for Tallahassee City Commission:

August 11, 2012 at 9:30-11:30 a.m.

(This is the final Meet and Greet prior to August 14, 2012 Primary Election Day.)

We're back in full swing at the Downtown Market, registering and educating voters.

If you'd like to volunteer to work the Downtown Market on a Saturday in August or September, please contact lwtallahassee@gmail.com.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOLDS A SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE FORUM

The Local Government Study & Action Group's July 12th candidate forum, attended by around 100 community members, provided an impartial forum for residents to hear from and ask questions of two specific groups of candidates, and gave the League a lot of recognition in the community. All the candidates from four local government races participated: County Commission-At-Large Group 1, County Commission District 2, City Commission Seat 1 and City Commission Seat 2.

Candidates were in two rooms at the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library and the audience moved from room to room to hear City and County Commission candidates express their opinions in response to questions prepared by the Study & Action Group and asked by the audience. Thanks to the skills of Anita Davis and Dot Inman-Johnson-our moderators who themselves are former local elected officials- candidates and audience members alike displayed the type of civil, reasonable discourse the League supports. Our timekeepers, League member Stuart Baker and volunteer Walter Forehand were essential in assuring all candidates equal time to speak.

Everyone involved did a terrific job of organizing and presenting the forum. The Local Government Group thanks our Board for financial support and also League members who pitched in to help at the event. Our League's candidate forum guru Janet Findling provided advice and assistance to we amateurs for which we are extremely grateful. President Rebecca Sager and Vice-President Marilynn Wills were also very helpful and provided advice and assistance.

We were able to provide refreshments thanks to the hard work of League member Fran Campbell who was ably assisted by her husband. Member Linda Davis was a major player in planning the event. She also contacted all the candidates, made candidate name signs, and did all kinds of logistical work. The Rubinos, Jan and Richard, were in on the planning from the beginning, too and worked hard to identify partners and co-operating organizations. Other members of the Study & Action Group who assisted in planning, recruiting partners and a variety of other ways were Stuart Baker, John Lorenz and Lisa Sprague. A big round of applause for all of them!

Financial support for the refreshments and other expenses came from the League Board and two

of our partner organizations: the American Association of University Women--Tallahassee Branch, and the Capital Section of the Florida Branch of the American Planning Association. Other local organizations co-operated with us to advertise the event: Council of Neighborhood Associations, Zonta Club, Village Square and Business Network International.

The Local Government Study & Action Group will be moving on to new challenges and we hope you will join us for our next meeting on August 7 at 3509 Trillium Ct. (off Timberlane Rd.).

-Ruth O'Donnell

MEMBERSHIP LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING (that's a mouthful, let's call it MLD for short...)

The LWVT Board voted in May to participate in the MLD program. In the midst of a very busy summer election season, Tallahassee League Board members, Peggy Ramsey, Dot Skofronick and Rebecca Sager, stole away for an all-expenses paid overnight to Winter Park, Florida where they participated in a training program developed by the League of Women Voters of the United States. Christy Crotty is also directly involved in the MLD program. Each month, Peggy, Dot, Rebecca and Christy will participate in monthly calls with our assigned MLD coach, Darden Rice, who is from the St. Petersburg Area League. Darden will support us through the MLD program and help the Tallahassee League expand our membership and our capacity to educate and engage citizens to create a stronger democracy.



We learned that our Tallahassee League is doing many things well already and we brought back useful, practical ideas for improving how we involve new members and develop leadership.

Those of us who work tirelessly for better government year in and year out were surprised to learn that so few Americans know that the League is active all the time in between election seasons. It turns out that telling our friends and neighbors short stories about why we joined and why we value being members is a great way to encourage others to join too. Since the MLD training, the Tallahassee Board met for a summer planning retreat and started to learn other basics of the training.

If there's something that you are looking forward to learning by being active in the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee, let a board member know! Together we're going to do great things for our community.

-Rebecca Sager

A Note of Thanks!

Received August 6, 2012 by email:

Hi Rebecca!!!

I just want to say thank you to you and all of the League members for all of the work they did to make Bandwagon a success!! They are really an amazing group of people. I especially want to thank you for having Janet Findling on this project. She does a great job tracking down the candidates, getting their info, and emphasizing to them how important this event can be in the campaign. We couldn't do Bandwagon without her and the rest of the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee. We are very fortunate to have had this partnership for so many years and I look forward to it going on for many years to come. Please tell everyone how grateful we all are.

*Thank you!
Suzanne*

*Suzanne Smith, Senior Producer, WFSU-TV
Manager, 4fsu*



A BIG WIN FOR THE LEAGUE!

(and everybody who wants to vote!)

Are you ready?? Ready to register voters, that is.

Earlier in the summer Federal Court Judge Robert Hinkle determined that third party voter registration groups would not have to turn in voter registrations within 48 hours but would have the usual ten days to return them to the Election Supervisor's Office. This was a big win for the League of Women Voters of Florida who had challenged the timeline passed by the legislature in 2011.

Many local League members came to Supervisor Ion Sancho's office to participate in a press conference announcing that the League of Women Voters of Florida was resuming voter registration, and Tallahassee Leaguers eagerly signed up to resume voter registration.

-Marilynn Wills

The following members have already qualified to register voters with
the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee:

Cynthia T. Cook
Janet L. Findling
Jessica Lowe-Minor
Jo Conte
Marilynn Wills
Martha Stewart
Peggy Ramsey
Rebecca Sager
Rosio Garcia
Sarah (Pat) Ramsey

Note:

Since the 2011 changes to Florida's election laws, it is now necessary to be a voting member of the League of Women Voters in order to register voters with the League.

If you are a League member, then:

**YOU ARE INVITED TO QUALIFY
TO REGISTER VOTERS WITH THE LEAGUE**

Here is HOW:

Step One: READ

*read an online presentation (depending upon your reading speed, 10-30 mins)

* to see the presentation visit <http://prezi.com/jcuixeskol3t/voter-registration-you/>

-or-

contact Peggy Ramsey

to schedule an in-person training: ramsey020@comcast.net

Step Two: SCORE 100%

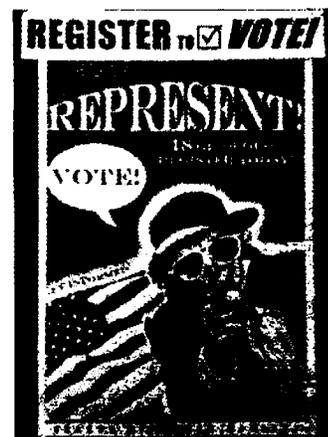
*take and re-take the online quiz until you score 100% (3-10 mins)

* to take the quiz visit <http://www.proprofs.com/quiz-school/story.php?title=lwvf-voter-registration-volunteer-quiz>

Step Up: VOLUNTEER!

*email LWVTallahassee@gmail.com or call 219-9966

to let your League know how often, what times, and what types of events you would like to volunteer for registering voters.



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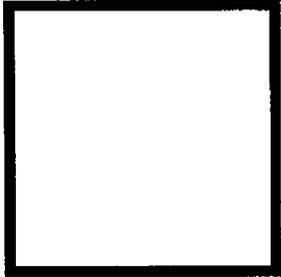
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Opt Out - go Green

If you would like to opt out of the traditional paper Voter (the one that arrives by regular mail), then please send an email to lwvtallahassee@gmail.com with "Opt Out" in the subject line.



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 P.O. Box 10216
 Tallahassee, FL 32302-2216



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
 (Please Print Legibly)

Name _____ Phone (home) _____

Address _____ Phone (mobile) _____

_____ E-mail _____

Please Circle Annual Membership Level
 (May 1, 2012 - April 30, 2013)

\$100.00 Susan B. Anthony membership _____

\$ 90.00 Household membership _____

\$ 60.00 Individual membership _____

\$ 30.00 Student membership _____

I am enclosing \$5.00 for LWVF Lobby Fund _____

Additional gift to LWVUS Education Fund _____

Please circle any topics
 that interest you:

- Voter Services
- Local Government
- Fundraising
- Health Care
- Lobby Corps
- Sustainability/Natural Resources
- Publicity
- Membership
- Hot Topics
- Education
- Hospitality/Events

Please make all checks payable to LWV of Tallahassee. Mail to LWVT, P. O. Box10216, Tallahassee, FL 32302-2216. You may also renew/join at www.lwvtallahassee.org. There is a \$2.00 charge for using PayPal.